CHAPTER 8
GLOSSARY

Access Roads—Access roads are used during development to construct the production wells and install equipment. During utilization, access roads are used for accessing wells for maintenance.

Ambient air—Any unconfined portion of the atmosphere; the outside air.

Aluminum conductor steel reinforced—This type of conductor has aluminum strands wrapped around a stranded steel core. The steel reinforces the conductor because it is much stronger.

Ambient air quality standard—A federal and state measure of the level of air contamination that is not to be exceeded in order to protect human health.

A-weighted decibel (dbA)—The scale normally used to approximate human hearing response to sound.

BLM Sensitive Species—Native species found on BLM-administered lands for which the BLM has the capability to significantly affect the conservation status of the species through management because the species is or has faced a downward trend in population or depends on native habitat that is considered threatened.

Capacity—The power ability of electrical equipment, measured in watts.

Cumulative project—Any project that has an impact on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

Distribution Line—Medium-voltage 25-kV lines that convey energy from the substation to the consumer.

Emergent Marsh—Within the Salt Wells Energy Projects Area, this community type is primarily comprised of obligate wetland species such as hardstem bulrush (Scirpus acutus) and Baltic rush (Juncus balticus), which were found at springs or areas with obvious shallow groundwater and surface water saturated soils.

Generation—The production of electricity from other forms of energy, such as combustion, falling water, or thermal transfer.

Generation capacity—Maximum electric production limit for which a generator is rated. The maximum limit fluctuates with changes in temperature or other environmental circumstances, depending on the type of machine.

Geothermal energy— Geothermal energy is energy derived from the natural heat of the earth. Geothermal resources are typically underground reservoirs of hot water or steam created by heat from the earth, but geothermal resources also include subsurface areas of dry hot rock.

Greasewood flat—A vegetation community dominated by Greasewood, other shrubs, and perennial grasses.

Kilovolt—A measure of electric voltage, one thousand volts. Household current is supplied at 120 volts.

Makeup Water—Water fed to a system to replace that which is lost - for example, water fed to a boiler to replace that lost as steam or condensate; water fed to a cooling tower to replace that lost by evaporation, drift, or other causes.

Megawatt—A measure of alternating current electric power that performs work. One thousand kilowatts, or one million watts. A standard light bulb is 60 watts.

Mixed Salt Desert Scrub—A vegetation community characterized by a mixture of shrubs and forbs.

Nitrogen oxides—A gaseous mixture of nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen oxide (NO_2) and symbolically represented as NO_3.

Nitric oxide—A molecule of one nitrogen and one oxygen atom. Results usually from combustion of organic substances containing nitrogen and from recombination of nitrogen decomposed in air during high temperature combustion; poisonous and highly reactive gases produced when fuel is burned at high temperatures, causing nitrogen in the air to combine with oxygen.

Nitrogen dioxide—A molecule of one nitrogen and two oxygen atoms. Results usually from further oxidation of nitric oxide in the atmosphere. Ozone accelerates to conversion.

Off-gassing—Offgassing or outgassing refers to the release of chemicals from various substances under normal conditions of temperature and pressure.

Ormat Project Area—The Ormat Project includes the construction and operation of a 40 40-MW (gross) binary combined air- and wet-cooled

geothermal power plant, up to 13 well pads (which could accommodate multiple wells), pipelines, a substation, switching station, 230-kV connection lines to the proposed SPPC transmission line, and access roads on approximately 6,948 acres of land.

Ozone—A colorless gas formed by a complex series of chemical and photochemical reaction of reactive organic gases, principally hydrocarbons, with oxides of nitrogen, which is harmful to the public health, the biota, and some materials; a molecule of three oxygen atoms. A principle component of oxidant in photochemically polluted atmospheres.

Particulate matter (particles)—Very fine solid matter or droplets, typically averaging one micron or smaller in diameter. Also called aerosol.

Parts per billion—A measure of the amount of one substance in a second substance, which is the carrier.

Parts per million—A measure of the amount of one substance found in a carrier.

Playas—Collection points of water which evaporate during the warmer months. Evaporates left behind are clay minerals, carbonates, salines, analcite, and silicates, but the chemistry and structure vary from one playa to another.

PM_{10}—Particulate matter less than 10 microns in size, which is small enough to be inhaled deeply into the lungs and to cause disease.

Power—The rate at which work is done. (Electrical power can be calculated through voltage and current and expressed in watts.)

Right-of-way—An easement, lease, permit, or license across an area or strip of land to allow access or to allow a utility to pass through public or private lands.

Salt Wells Energy Projects Area—The area encompassed by the SPPC, Ormat, and Vulcan proposals covering approximately 24,152 acres in the Salt Wells, Nevada, about 15 miles east of Fallon.

Sensitive receptor—Land uses or people adjacent to or within close proximity of a project site that could be affected by construction, operation, and maintenance activities.

Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPC) Project Area—The SPPC Project Area covers approximately 1,582 acres and includes construction of a new substation, 22 miles of single-circuit 230-kV transmission line, two 230-kV switching stations, a fiber optic cable along the length of the transmission line, and four 60-kV electric folds connecting the proposed new substation to the

existing Fallon substation. The ROW for the transmission line would be 125 feet for H-frame structures and 60 feet for single-pole structures.

GAP Analysis Project—The mapping and modeling of land cover and vertebrate habitat using geospatial data.

Substation—A control building that regulates or reduces the electric voltage from the transmission line to levels that can be conveyed to the customer.

Sulfur oxides—The group of compounds formed during combustion or thereafter in the atmosphere of sulfur compounds in the fuel, each having various levels of oxidation, ranging from two oxygen atoms for each sulfur to four oxygen atoms.

Survey Area—The study area used for cultural and biological surveys

Total suspended particulates—Solid or liquid particles small enough to remain suspended in air. PM10 is the portion of total suspended particulates that can be inhaled.

Transmission line—High-voltage lines (60-kV or greater) that convey bulk power from remote power sources to the electrical service area.

Utility corridor—A linear corridor usually designated for facilities, such as powerlines, pipelines, fiber-optic cables, and roads.

Vulcan Project Area—The Vulcan leases on BLM land, the 500-foot corridor for the alternative interconnection line from power plant site 5 to the Bass Flat Switching Station and the Bass Flat Switching Station site.

Wetland—Lands traditionally between obviously upland and aquatic environments. Wetlands are generally highly productive environments with abundant fish, wildlife, esthetic, and natural resource values. For this reason, coupled with the alarming rate of their destruction, they are considered valuable resources, and several regulations and laws have been implemented to protect them.